

H.R. 3247, To establish a social and behavioral sciences research program
at the Department of Energy, and for other purposes

Section by Section Analysis

Section 1: Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Program

Section 1 establishes a program of social and behavioral research in the Department of Energy. It directs the Secretary to appoint or designate a Director of Social and Behavioral Research. The Director is responsible for developing and implementing a research plan, developing tools, practices, and information to help integrate social and behavioral research into DOE programs.

Section 2: Research Plan

Section 2 instructs the Director to create a Research Plan within 9 months in consultation with the Social and Behavioral Research Advisory Committee and provide the plan to Congress. The Director is also instructed to publish a draft of the plan in the Federal Register with a 30-day comment period. The plan must be reviewed and revised every five years. The Research Plan must address a broad range of issues in how social and behavioral research can influence energy conservation, efficiency and use.

Section 3: Social and Behavioral Research Grants

Section 3 provides grants to support social and behavioral research consistent with the research plan. Awards may be for a period up to 3 years and must be awarded through a competitive, merit-based, peer-reviewed process. The authorization of appropriations for the grant program is \$10 million for each for the fiscal years 2010 through 2015.

Section 4: Social and Behavioral Research Advisory Committee

Section 4 directs the Secretary to establish an Advisory Committee of experts to advise the Secretary and the Director of the Social and Behavioral Program on areas of research to be undertaken by the program, the development of the Research Plan, and for other assistance as requested. The Advisory Committee will not be subject to the sunset provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act until three years after the date of the Committee is established.